



State of Washington

## Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC)

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### Facts About JLARC

Established by Chapter 44.28 RCW, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (formerly the Legislative Budget Committee) provides oversight of state-funded programs and activities. This joint, bipartisan legislative committee consists of eight senators and eight representatives equally divided between the two major political parties.

On March 30, 1996, the Governor signed E2SHB 2222 renaming the existing Legislative Budget Committee (LBC) as the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee. While the duties of JLARC are essentially the same as the old LBC, the new name is more descriptive of the committee's purpose and mission, and its increasing role in measuring, evaluating, and auditing the performance of state government. The committee has been in existence since 1951.

Under the direction of the Legislative Auditor, committee staff conduct performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, and other policy and fiscal studies. Studies focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations, impact of state programs, and compliance with legislative intent. As appropriate, recommendations to correct identified problems areas are included. The Legislative Auditor also has responsibility for facilitating implementation of effective performance measurement throughout state government.

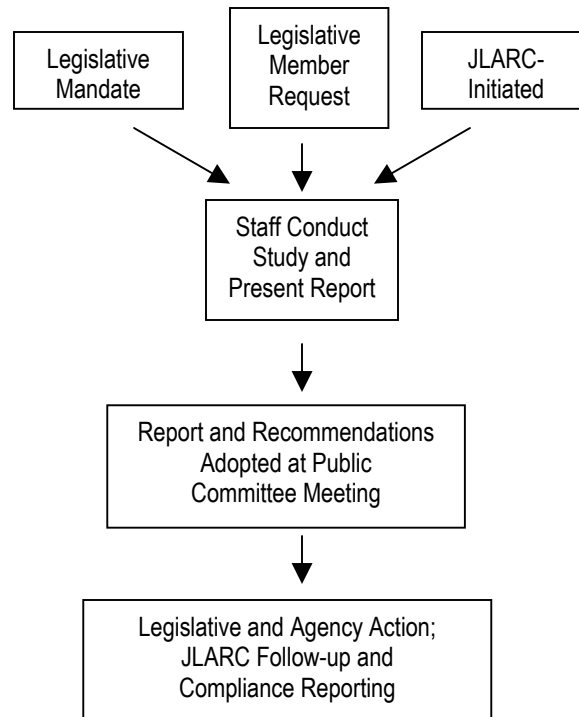
JLARC recommends to the legislature and the executive branch, sponsors legislation, and reviews the status of implementation of committee recommendations. Its work is formally incorporated into the legislative process, with recommendations often enacted into law and impacting public policy.

JLARC has been conducting performance audits and program evaluations since 1973. In that time, the committee has issued over 378 reports. Over 75 of these reports, which collectively contain over 300 recommendations, have been issued since 1990. Report summaries and the full text of selected reports completed since 1995 are available on-line on JLARC's home page at <http://jlarc.leg.wa.gov>. Copies of JLARC reports or one-page summaries may be obtained by contacting Barbara Neff at (360) 786-5171.

### Mission Statement

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) conducts objective performance audits, program evaluations, special studies, and sunset reviews on behalf of the legislature and the citizens of the state of Washington. The committee makes recommendations to the legislature and state agencies that should result in cost savings and/or improved performance in state government.

## JLARC Study Process



## Criteria for Establishing JLARC Work Program Priorities

- Is study consistent with JLARC mission? Is it mandated?
- Is this an area of significant fiscal or program impact, a major policy issue facing the state, or otherwise of compelling public interest?
- Will there likely be substantive findings and recommendations?
- Is this the best use of JLARC resources: For example:
  - Is the JLARC the most appropriate agency to perform the work?
  - Would the study be nonduplicating?
  - Would this study be cost-effective compared to other projects (e.g., larger, more substantive studies take longer and cost more, but might also yield more useful results)?
- Is funding available to carry out the project?